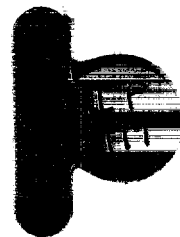


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Project: **IP-111**

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

Date: **3 May 1950**

To: **B/LA**

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: **Bauxite industry in Dutch Guiana**

Statement of Project: **25X1A**

Origin: **Internal** [REDACTED]

Problem: **To provide information as specified on the susceptibility of bauxite production in Dutch Guiana to interruption.**

Scope:

Graphics (if any):

Form: **Memorandum (orig & 2)**

Draft due in D/Pub: **18 May 1950**

Responsible Division: **B/LA**

Dissemination deadline
(if any)

Internal Coordination: **B/La**

Departmental Responsibilities: **None**

Classification to be no higher than: **Secret**

Recommended Dissemination: **Requester only**

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Copies: D/LA
AD/SEC

Approved For Release 2000/08/29 : CIA-RDP79T01049A000200030001

Project: *IP-III*

OFFICE OF REPORTS AND ESTIMATES

Project Initiation Memorandum

25X1A

Date: *5 May 1950*

To: *D/LA*

From: Publications Division, Projects Planning

Subject: *Bauxite industry in Dutch Guiana*

Statement of Project: 25X1A

Origin: *Internal*

Problem: *To provide information as specified on the susceptibility of bauxite production in Dutch Guiana to interruption*

Scope:

Graphics (if any):

Form: *Memorandum (orig + 2)*

Draft due in D/Pub: *12 May 1950*

Responsible Division: *D/LA*

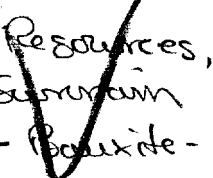
Dissemination deadline
(if any)

Internal Coordination: *D/EC*

Departmental Responsibilities: *None*

Classification to be no higher than: *Secret*

Recommended Dissemination: *Requester only*

- 
1. Surinam - Resources, geologic - Bauxite
 2. Bauxite - Surinam
 3. Sabotage - Bauxite - Surinam

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5 May 1950

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] D/Pub, ORE
SUBJECT : Bauxite Industry of Dutch Guiana
REFERENCE : Case [REDACTED] 25X1A

1. It is requested that this office be furnished information on the Bauxite industry in Surinam. Emphasis should be placed on the following questions:

a. Who are the principal producers of Bauxite in Surinam?

- | | |
|-----------------|----------------|
| (1) ownership | (4) production |
| (2) nationality | (5) exports |
| (3) location | (6) stockpiles |

b. What is the extent of the protection of the Bauxite industry (both governmental and private) against direct and indirect Soviet sabotage with regard to:

- (1) Physical protection of Bauxite facilities themselves.
- (2) Communist infiltration and agitation of labor groups and unions.
- (3) Protection of port and dock facilities.
- (4) Protection of lines of communications.

c. What plans, if any, exist for the protection of the Bauxite industry in case of emergency?

d. What is the estimated extent of Communist infiltration in Surinam (either Soviet or local)?

e. What is the attitude of the Surinam authorities toward possible Communist activities in the territory?

f. What is the strength and estimated effectiveness of the local police force in Surinam, particularly in the Bauxite producing areas?

g. What other organized groups could be relied upon in case of emergency for the protection of the Bauxite industry?

h. Has there

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h. Has there been any expression of interest in Surinam's Bauxite industry on the part of foreign interests other than the United States?

- (1) surveys initiated by foreign governments and/or firms and individuals.
- (2) attempts to control or purchase present Bauxite installations from present owners.

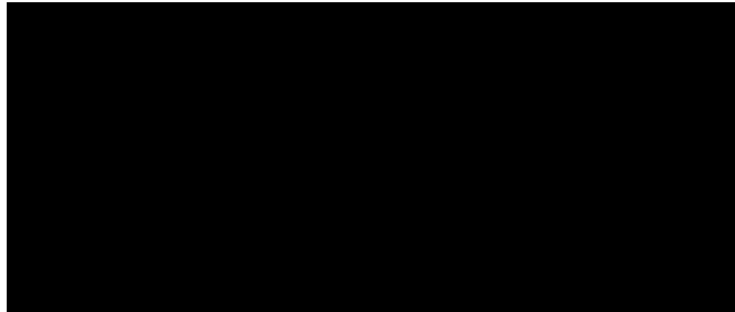
i. Are there any reports, studies, or information dealing directly with the overall protection of the Bauxite industry which could be furnished this office?

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2. This memorandum confirms conversation of 4 May between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of this office. Degree of need is standard.

25X1A



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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

INSTRUCTIONS: Officer designations (see separate sheet) should be used in the "To" column. Under each comment a line should be drawn across sheet and each comment numbered to correspond with the number in the "To" column. Each officer should initial (check mark insufficient) before further routing. This Record and Routing Sheet should be returned to Registry.

FROM:

ISB

5 May 1950

ACCESSION NO.

C-23595

DATE RECEIVED IN S. A.

5 May

TO	ROOM NO.	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS
		RECEIVED	FORWARDED		
1. [REDACTED] D/Pub, ORE	2316 "M"				Carbon copy to D/LA - 8 May 50
2. 25X1A					
3.					
4.					
5.					
6.					
7.					
8.					
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10.					
11.					
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13.					
14.					
15.					

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SECRET

16 May 1950

25X1A

MEMORANDUM FOR : [REDACTED], D Pube, ORE

FROM : Chief, D/LA

SUBJECT : Bauxite Industry of Dutch Guiana

REFERENCE : Case [REDACTED]

1. The principal producers of bauxite in Surinam are the Surinaamse Bauxiet Maatschappij (Surinam Bauxite Company) and the Billiton Company.

(a) Ownership and (b) Nationality. The Surinam Bauxite Company, largest producing company, is a subsidiary of the Aluminum Company of America. The Billiton Company is Dutch owned.

(c) Location. There are three bauxite mining developments in Surinam. Two of these, Moengo and Paranam, are operated by the Surinam Bauxite Company; the other, at Onverwacht, by the Billiton Company.

Moengo. The oldest bauxite mine, operating since 1922, is located at Moengo, where a whole town has been built up in the jungle by the company. Moengo is located on the Cottica River, more than one hundred (100) miles from the coast and can be reached only by boat from Paramaribo sailing on the Suriname, Commewyne, and Cottica Rivers. Some ore is extracted still from the Moengo deposit, where the plant is located. However, for a couple of years now ore has been extracted from a new deposit at Dickenda Hill - about nine (9) miles from Moengo. In 1948 a railroad was built connecting these two points, so that ore might be transported from the new deposit, which is more extensive than the original Moengo deposit, to the Moengo mill for processing. After being crushed and dried, the bauxite is loaded directly by means of a chute from the mill onto Alcoa freighters (of 2,800 tons and 17' draft maximum size) at a rate of 600 tons an hour (this was the rate in 1942 no later figure is available), and shipped up the river. The Moengo mill is at present undergoing repairs and alterations which, when completed, will considerably increase its capacity.

Paranam. In 1941, the Surinam Bauxite Company started operating a new mine at Paranam on the Suriname River, about twenty-five (25) miles south of Paramaribo. Ore from this mine is transported by ships (of 5,000 tons and 18 1/2' maximum size) up the Suriname River. In addition to the deposit at Paranam, recent extensive prospecting by the Surinam Bauxite Company revealed the existence of a large bauxite deposit on a piece of its property five miles north of the Paranam mill on the opposite side of the river (eastern bank). It has not yet been decided whether the Paranam mill will be moved to the new deposit or the ore brought by some means to the present mill site, when the Paranam deposit is exhausted.

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~~Overvacht~~. About 1941, also, the Billiton Company, a Dutch concern which operates mines in the East Indies, started mining bauxite at Overvacht (alternative spellings: Unvervacht; Overdacht), located a few miles west of Paramaribo, near the Para Creek. No information is now available in this office which would indicate how the bauxite is usually shipped from this mine. Two possible routes seem to exist: 1) shipment by rail to Paramaribo (a distance of 20 miles) since Overvacht is on the route of Surinam's one-meter gage, single track railroad line; or, the more likely route in view of the limited capacity of the Surinam railroad, 2) shipment overland along a road which connects Overvacht with the Surinam River, and thence shipment by freighter up the river to the coast. One report states that ore is shipped up from the Billiton mine from a point called Smalkalden. This town cannot be located on any of the maps available in ORE or IR, however.

Some of Surinam's bauxite is carried to Trinidad or St. Thomas for transshipment on larger vessels. This is the case with almost all of the ore coming from the Moengo mine, for due to the limitation in length of vessels of 240 feet at Moengo, small ships are used for shuttling bauxite between Moengo and Trinidad. Ships coming from the other two mines either stop at Trinidad to take on extra loads, or else proceed directly from Surinam to New Orleans, Mobile or Newport News.

(d) Production.

Production of Bauxite in Surinam, Metric Tons, 1941-49

1941 - 1,198,900
1942 - 1,227,512
1943 - 1,055,147
1944 - 625,804
1945 - 683,990
1946 - 857,043
1947 - 1,809,837
1948 - 2,149,906
1949 - 2,126,654 (Slight decline from 1948 due to strike at Billiton Co. which stopped production at its mine for over a month.)

SOURCE: For 1941-48 figures, Minerals Yearbook 1948, US Bureau of Mines, section on "Bauxite" by Richard H. Mote and Horace P. Kurts. For 1949, State Rpt. 5, Paramaribo, 14 February 1950.

Breakdown of 1947 and 1949 Production Figures by Mines (metric tons)

	1947	1949
Paramaribo mine	764,601	1,002,626
Moengo mine	656,270	727,341
Billiton mine	377,718	396,687

NOTE: The slight discrepancy between the total given here for 1947 and that given above is due to the fact that the source for these 1947 figures was State Rpt. 8, Paramaribo, 3 March 1948, which gave a slightly lower figure than the Bureau of Mines Yearbook.

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(e) Exports. Practically all of Surinam's bauxite exports go to the US. Although no complete accounting of Surinam's annual bauxite exports is available, the fact that of the 2,120,043 long tons of bauxite which were mined in 1948 (figure from State Rpt. 5, Paramaribo, 14 February 1950) the US imported 2,051,265 long tons (figure from Bureau of Mines Yearbook 1948) indicates that no significant amount of Surinam bauxite is shipped to any other country.

(f) Stockpiles. This office has no information on bauxite stockpiles in Surinam.

2. (a) No information available in D/LA.

(b) There has been no evidence of Communist infiltration and agitation of labor groups. The labor movement in Surinam is not too strong. The various labor groups are organized into the S.W.O. - Surinam Employees Union - which is affiliated with the neo-Communist Inter-American Confederation of Labor (CIT). The head of the S.W.O., L.E.A.S. Kleaser, is not Communist inclined. He is an emotional, sensationalist kind of person, declares strongly that he is anti-Dutch, appears to be friendly toward the US.

A strike did occur at the Billiton mine during 1949, holding up production for over a month, but there was no evidence that it was Communist-inspired.

(c) No information available in D/LA.

(d) No information available in D/LA.

3. No information available in D/LA.

4. There has been no evidence of any Communist infiltration in Surinam.

5. No information available in D/LA.

6. The local police force in Surinam consists of approximately two hundred (200) not too efficient native policemen. The present chief of police, a negro, E.M.L. Ensterg, is reportedly friendly towards the US. It is doubtful that any police are stationed at the bauxite mines. D/LA estimates that Surinam's police force offers no effective protection to the bauxite producing areas.

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7. The Dutch army garrison in Paramaribo consists of approximately twenty-six (26) officers and five to six hundred (500-600) enlisted men. Almost all the officers and 60-65% of the enlisted men are from the Netherlands. There are two army posts at Paramaribo, one for personnel and equipment, the other a smaller one serving chiefly as a supply depot for subsistence items. In addition to these two posts, at all times there are small detachments of troops on duty at various points in the interior of the country (exact locations unknown).

It is not known whether one of these small detachments is assigned to the Moengo mine. If this is not the case, the Moengo mine is quite unprotected. In view of the fact that the only way of reaching Moengo is the 100 mile trip by boat, the Dutch garrison at Paramaribo would be of little help in the event of an emergency. The other two bauxite mines are much closer to Paramaribo (a distance of about twenty or twenty-five miles). Since roads connect both of them with that city, it may be assumed that they are afforded some degree of protection by the Dutch garrison there.

8. No information available in D/LA.

9. No report of this nature is known to D/LA.

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Office Memorandum

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

25X1A


TO : Chief, D/Pub (Attn: )

FROM : Acting Chief, D/LA

SUBJECT: Bauxite industry in Dutch Guiana

DATE: 17 May 1950

12-111

Material prepared by D/LA in response to D/Pub request dated
5 May 1950 (Case ) , is enclosed herewith:

25X1A

Attachment

25X1A

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